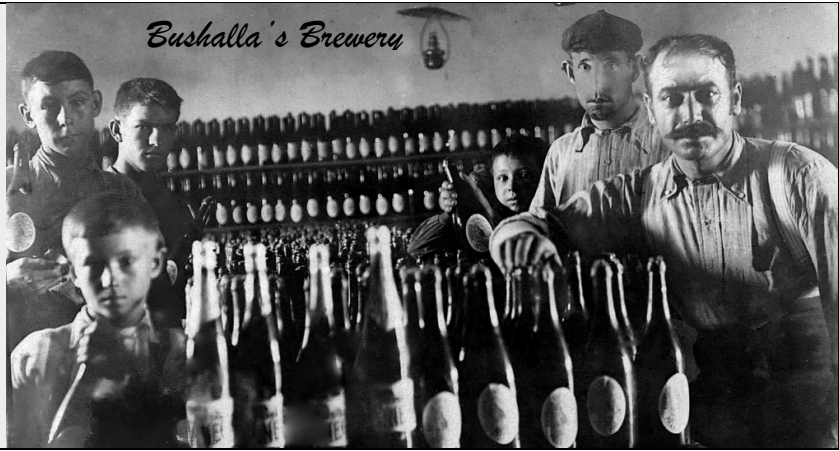


# Spend a Day in Historic Narrogin



Like most of the wheatbelt towns there is some dispute over the origins of the town's name. The popular interpretation is that it is a local Noongar word meaning 'the place of water'. It is something of a novelty to realise that the same word has been spelt as 'gngrgagin', 'nagacan', 'naroging', 'ngnarajin' and gnarojin.

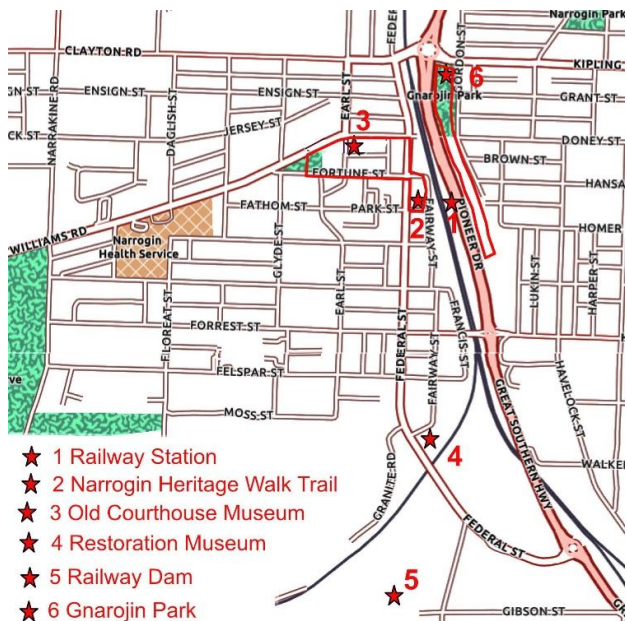
Narrogin was first settled in the 1860s and 1870s when pastoralists moved into the area. They lived in isolated outposts. The population was so scattered that there was never a sufficient concentration of land holders to justify the establishment of a town.

The key to the development of Narrogin was the arrival of the Great Southern Railway in July 1889. The railway company were in search of good reliable watering points along the route from Perth to Albany. The company which had won the railway contract, the WA Land Company, duly purchased Narrogin pool and it was around this pool that the town developed.

The town started as a small group of buildings centred on the railway station. The 'Father of Narrogin' Michael Brown was responsible for a great number of building construction in the town. This in turn attracted new settlers, including the enterprising Nicholas 'Charlie' Bushalla.

Narrogin's early role as a major railway junction served to attract agricultural service industries as well as government departments and agencies.

Did you know that the Narrogin district had the highest enlistment rate per capita for the First World War in the British Empire? The war blighted a generation.



*Visit these sites and trails to discover historic Narrogin.*

**1 Old Narrogin Railway Station.** In addition to brochures and information at the visitor centre, view the diorama of 1960's Narrogin, when the railway system was at its best. Be sure to see the amazing relay board in the Railway Heritage Room.

**2 Narrogin Heritage Walk Trail.** The Narrogin Heritage Walk Trail is a fascinating 1,250m stroll through the town's early settlement history via a series of engaging and attractive interpretive panels. The circuit includes many of the historic buildings that tell the story of European settlement and help tell the Stories of Us - of all those people who've made Narrogin their home through the years.

The trail is designed for one-way travel in a clockwise direction, and commences outside the Arts



Centre, on the corner of Park and Fairway Streets – although you can join it anywhere along the route. The trail is marked with black-on-silver triangles affixed to the footpath at regular intervals. These are particularly clear at turns and street crossings, while the walk trail's interpretive panels also help define the way ahead. In most cases panels are visible from some distance away.

**3 Old Courthouse Museum.** The museum is in a charming historic building, which was originally built as a government school in 1894. In 1905 it was converted into the local courthouse. It became the local branch of the Agricultural Bank between 1924 and 1945 but returned to its former use as a courthouse in 1970. Check out the original magistrate's bench, prisoner's dock and witness stand as well as exhibits from Narrogin's doll and pottery factories, medical displays, early farming items and aboriginal artefacts.

Find the museum on the corner of Earl and Egerton Streets.

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

Sat 10am-12pm

**4 Narrogin Vintage Museum** has a wonderful collection of machinery and farm vehicles that have been restored by a group of committed volunteers.

Located on the intersection of Federal and Fairway Streets It is open on the first Saturday morning of each month, or by appointment.

Contact 0408412134 or 0427884009



**5 Railway Dam** was constructed to supply water for steam locomotives after sources in the town centre became too salty. Increasing salinity of the dam water forced the development of a network of water channels from the inlets to separate fresh and saline water flows, which are featured on one of the two walk trails around the dam. After World War 2, European refugees were housed in surrounding camps. These enterprising people worked on farms, the railway and other government department. Many stayed to become valued members of the Narrogin district.

The dam has free RV camping, a picnic area with a gas BBQ.

**6 Gnarojin Park.** The Park was established in 1992 to celebrate the Centenary of Local Government in Narrogin. It is a long, linear park, running north south along the Narrogin Brook, and is the site of a range of public art conveying both Noongar and European history.

By walking or cycling along the 2km trail, which surrounds the brook, discover Narrogin history and Noongar cultural information on 100 black dolerite plaques, Noongar interpretive panels and Dreaming Sites.

